

Virginia Tech Black History Oral History Collection

Virginia Tech Black History Oral History Collection

1996-2003



Title Statement

Virginia Tech Black History Oral History Collection Virginia Tech Black History Oral History Collection, 2014-2015 Ms.2003.011

Author: Ren Harman, Oral History Projects Archivist

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)

560 Drillfield Drive

Newman Library, Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Business Number: 540-231-6308

specref@vt.edu

URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



(CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-09 07:03:58 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2020-10-09 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

2022-04-18 LM Rozema added link to Omeka (removed link to archive.org), changed scope note to the scope note on Omeka, and changed title to tile in Omeka (Black History Oral History Collection).

2025-04-01 R Harman added box and folder numbers and added box that contained cassette tapes. Updated notes.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2003.011

Unit Date

1996-2003

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes oral history transcripts and cassette tapes from various African Americans with experience at Virginia Tech and/or in the Blacksburg area between the 1950s and the early 2000s.

Extent

0.3 Cubic Feet

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research, with the exception of some materials not available to the public.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish material from the Virginia Tech Black History Oral History Collection must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech.

Source of Acquisition

These oral history interviews were conducted by the former University Archivist between 1996 and 2003.

Processing

The collection was partially processed in June 2024 and completed in April 2025.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Black History Oral History Collection, Ms2003-011, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical

Dr. Essek Finney, Class of 1959, one of the first three black graduates of Virginia Tech.

Jerry Gaines, Class of 1971, first black scholarship athlete at Virginia Tech.

Irving Linwood Peddrew III, the first black student at Virginia Tech.

Rev. Phillip Harmon Price and his sister, Anna Christine Price integrated Blacksburg High School in 1961.

Dr. James Darnell Watkins, Class of 1971, one of six charter members of Groove Phi Groove.

Dr. Charlie Yates, Class of 1958 first black graduate of Virginia Tech.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes oral history transcripts and cassette tapes from various African Americans with experience at Virginia Tech and/or in the Blacksburg area between the 1950s and the early 2000s. These oral history interviews were conducted by the former university archivist between 1996 and 2003.

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)

Montgomery County (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

University Archives

University History

Oral histories (literary works)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Existence and Location of Copies

The collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

Arrangement

Transcripts are in folders according to interviewee and cassette tapes are in separate box.

Description of Subordinate Components

Oral History with Lindsay Cherry

Unit ID Ms2003-011_LindsayCherry

Unit Date 1999-03-27

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Oral History with Essex Finney

Unit ID Ms2003-011_EssexFinney

Unit Date 1999-03-26

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Oral History with Jerry Gaines

Unit ID Ms2003-011_JerryGaines

Unit Date 2003-03-28

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Oral History with Michael Herndon

Unit ID Ms2003-011_MichaelHerndon

Unit Date 2000-09-20

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Oral History with Irving Linwood Peddrew III

Unit ID Ms2003-011_IrvingLinwoodPeddrewIII

Unit Date 2002-11-29

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Oral History with Philip Price

Unit ID Ms2003-011_PhilipPrice

Unit Date 1996-02-01

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Oral History with James Darnell Watkins

Unit ID Ms2003-011_JamesDarnellWatkins

Unit Date 2000-03-31

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Oral History with Charlie Yates

Unit ID Ms2003-011_CharlieYates

Unit Date 2000-09-13

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Lindsay Cherry (2 copies cassette tapes)

Unit Date 1999-03-27

box 2

Lindsay Cherry (microcassette)

Unit Date 1999-03-27

box 2

Essek Finney (2 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 1999-03-26

box 2

Essek Finney (microcassette)

Unit Date 1999-03-26

box 2

Jeremiah Gaines (2 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2003-03-28

box 2

Jeremiah Gaines (2 microcassette tapes)

Unit Date 2003-03-28

box 2

Michael Herndon (2 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-09-20

box 2

Michael Herndon (2 microcassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-09-20

box 2

Irving Linwood Peddrew III (4 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2002-11-29

box 2

Irving Linwood Peddrew III (2 microcassette tapes)

Unit Date 2002-11-29

box 2

Philip Price (2 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 1996-02-01

box 2

Charlie Yates (4 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-09-13

box 2

Charlie Yates (2 microcassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-09-13

box 2

James Watkins (4 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-03-31

box 2

James Watkins (2 cassette tapes)

Unit Date 2000-03-31

box 2